

Message Text

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62

ACTION SS-30

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 1251

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR BL
SUBJECT: LETTER FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER TO BOLIVIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER

REF: STATE 038863

1. SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LETTER WAS DELIVERED PERSONALLY BY ME TO BOLIVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER GUZMAN THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 28, SHORTLY AFTER THE FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNED TO LA PAZ FROM THE MEXICO CITY MEETING. HE READ A TRANSLATION IN SPANISH, WHICH WE HAD PROVIDED, AND EXPRESSED HIS GREAT APPRECIATION FOR THE SECRETARY'S LETTER. HE ANTICIPATED SEEING THE PRESIDENT THIS AFTERNOON AND IS DELIGHTED THAT HE HAS THE LETTER TO SHOW TO PRESIDENT BANZER.

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSED HIS GREAT ADMIRATION FOR THE MANNER IN WHICH SECRETARY KISSINGER CONDUCTED HIMSELF AT THE MEXICO CITY MEETING. HE SAID HE WAS COMPLETELY SATISFIED WITH THE RESULT OF THE CONFERENCE AND FELT THAT A POSITIVE AND SOUND BASIS HAD BEEN LAID FOR OPENING A NEW CHAPTER IN U.S. - LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS AND ALSO BETWEEN LATIN AMERICAN THEMSELVES. HE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT ATTENDED PRIOR CONFERENCES AS HE IS A MILITARY MAN, BUT WAS DELIGHTED WITH THE FRANK, INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS DURING THIS PARTICULAR MEETING.

3. HE INDICATED THAT THE BOLIVIAN DELEGATION HAD A CHANCE TO HAVE A BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER DURING WHICH THE
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FOREIGN MINISTER WAS ABLE TO NOTE THE GOB'S INTEREST IN FINANCIAL

ASSISTANCE FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD DAMAGE AND FINANCIAL AID FOR THE SUBSTITUTION OF COCA PRODUCTION IN BOLIVIA. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE PROPOSALS BUT WAS QUITE NATURALLY NOT ABLE TO RESPOND AT THE TIME OF THAT CONVERSATION. THE FOREIGN MINISTER IS OF THE BELIEF THAT THE REQUESTS THAT HE RAISED WITH THE SECRETARY WILL BE PURSUED IN DUE COURSE BY THE DEPARTMENT.

4. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT HE HAD HAD A VERY FRIENDLY MEETING WITH THE CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTER WHOM HE HAD KNOWN PREVIOUSLY AS A FELLOW MILITARY MAN. THE MINISTER GAVE HIS OPINION THAT PROSPECTS ARE GOOD FOR IMPROVING BOLIVIAN-CHILEAN RELATIONS, AND THE PANAMA CANAL UNDERSTANDING WITH THE US RAISES HIS HOPES FOR RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES WITH CHILE.
STEDMAN

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